AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-19. (Canceled)

20. (Original) In a telecommunication system having a first network based on a first technology and a second network based on a second technology, the second network in communication with the first network;

a message encoding format profile functionality adapted to enable transport of encoded information along at least a portion of a path of communication established between the networks, the profile functionality including:

mapping means for mapping the encoded information from a first message having a first message encoding format to a second message having a second message encoding format wherein the mapping is performed in accordance with table 2 as herein disclosed.

21. (Original) A message encoding format profile functionality as claimed in claim 20, wherein the mapping is based on logical mapping.

22. (Original) A message encoding format profile functionality as claimed in claim 20, wherein the logical mapping includes bit stuffing.

23. (Original) In a telecommunication system having a first network based on a first technology and a second network based on a second technology, the second network in communication with the first network, a method of providing a message encoding format profile functionality adapted to enable transport of encoded information along at least a portion of a path of communication established between the networks, the method including:

mapping the encoded information from a first message having a first message encoding format to a second message having a second message encoding format wherein the mapping is performed in accordance with table 2 as herein disclosed.

24. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the step of *mapping* is based on logical mapping.

25. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the step of mapping includes bit stuffing

26. (Currently Amended) A method of transporting encoded speech information to and from a first endpoint in an access network across an ATM core network, said access network being connected to said core network via first telecommunications node, said method including:

(a) generating an AMR-encoded packet at said first endpoint from a digitized speech signal;

(b) transmitting said AMR-encoded packet to said first telecommunications node,

(c) mapping the contents of said AMR-encoded packet at said first telecommunications node into an ATM Convergence Sublayer Protocol Data Unit utilizing an AMR-encoding format profile, said mapping step including:

(c)(1) determining message User-to-User Indication information;

(c)(2) determining message Length Indicator information; and

(c)(3) selecting the AMR-encoding format profile based on the determined User-to-User Indication information and the determined Length Indicator information; ~~and~~

(d) transmitting said ATM Convergence Sublayer Protocol Data Unit across said core network to said second telecommunications node, said ATM Convergence Sublayer Protocol Data Unit including a header containing the User-to-User Indication information and the Length Indicator information; and

(e) reconstructing said AMR-encoded packet from said ATM Convergence Sublayer Protocol Data Unit at a second telecommunications node within or at an interface to said ATM core network, wherein the second telecommunications node determines the AMR-encoding format profile based on the User-to-User Indication information and the Length Indicator information included in the header of the ATM Convergence Sublayer Protocol Data Unit.

27. (Currently Amended) A telecommunications system including:

one or more access networks connected to an ATM core network[[,]];

a first endpoint in communication with said core network via ~~said~~ a first of said access networks[[,]]; and

first and second telecommunications nodes both of which are within or at interfaces to said ATM core network, wherein

said first endpoint acts to generate an AMR-encoded packet at said first endpoint from a digitized speech signal and transmits said AMR-encoded packet to said first telecommunications node, and wherein

said first telecommunications node ~~acts to map~~ includes:

mapping means for mapping the contents of said AMR-encoded packet into an ATM Convergence Sublayer Protocol Data Unit, said mapping means including:

means for determining message User-to-User Indication information;

means for determining message Length Indicator information; and

means for selecting an AMR-encoding format profile based on the determined User-to-User Indication information and the determined Length Indicator information; and

~~transmits said~~ means for transmitting the ATM Convergence Sublayer Protocol Data Unit across said core network to said second telecommunications node, said ATM Convergence Sublayer Protocol Data Unit including a header containing the User-to-User Indication information and the Length Indicator information, and wherein

said second telecommunications node includes means for ~~reconstruction of said~~ reconstructing the AMR-encoded packet by selecting the AMR-encoding format profile

based on the User-to-User Indication information and the Length Indicator information included in the header of the ATM Convergence Sublayer Protocol Data Unit.

28. (Currently Amended) A first telecommunications node for use in a telecommunications system including one or more access networks connected to an ATM core network, a first endpoint in communication with said core network via a first of said access networks, and a second telecommunications node, said first and second telecommunications nodes both being within or at interfaces to said ATM core network, wherein said first endpoint acts to generate an AMR encoded packet from a speech signal and transmits said AMR encoded packet to said first telecommunications node, wherein said first telecommunications node includes :

processing means to map the contents of said AMR encoded packet into an ATM Convergence Sublayer Protocol Data Unit, said processing means including:

means for determining message User-to-User Indication information;

means for determining message Length Indicator information; and

means for selecting an AMR-encoding format profile based on the determined User-to-User Indication information and the determined Length Indicator information; and

transmission means to transmit said ATM Convergence Sublayer Protocol Data Unit across said core network to said second telecommunications node, said ATM Convergence Sublayer Protocol Data Unit including a header containing the User-to-User Indication information and the Length Indicator information for indicating to the second telecommunications node, the AMR-encoding format profile to be used for reconstruction of said AMR-encoded packet from said ATM Convergence Sublayer Protocol Data Unit.

29-30. (Canceled)

31. (New) An apparatus for enabling transport of adaptive multi-rate (AMR)-encoded packets from a radio access network across an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) core network, said apparatus comprising:

mapping means for mapping a first message containing AMR-encoded packets into a second message containing ATM Convergence Sublayer Protocol Data Units, wherein the AMR-encoded packets include an integral number of AMR Encoding Data Units (EDUs), said mapping means including:

means for determining message User-to-User Indication information;

means for determining message Length Indicator information; and

means for selecting an AMR-encoding format profile based on the determined User-to-User Indication information and the determined Length Indicator information; and

message creation means for creating the second message containing ATM Convergence Sublayer Protocol Data Units, each of said ATM Convergence Sublayer Protocol Data Units including a header containing the User-to-User Indication information and the Length Indicator information.

32. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 31, wherein the mapping means utilizes logical mapping.

33. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 32, wherein the logical mapping includes bit stuffing.

34. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 31, wherein the apparatus is located in a node of the ATM core network.

35. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 34, wherein the node is a Universal Mobile Telecommunications System Mobile Switching Center (UMSC) of the core network.

36. (New) A method of enabling transport of adaptive multi-rate (AMR)-encoded packets from a radio access network across an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) core network, said method comprising:

mapping a first message containing AMR-encoded packets into a second message containing ATM Convergence Sublayer Protocol Data Units, wherein the AMR-encoded packets include an integral number of AMR Encoding Data Units (EDUs), said mapping step including:

determining message User-to-User Indication information;

determining message Length Indicator information; and

selecting an AMR-encoding format profile based on the determined User-to-User Indication information and the determined Length Indicator information; and

creating the second message containing ATM Convergence Sublayer Protocol Data Units, each of said ATM Convergence Sublayer Protocol Data Units including a header containing the User-to-User Indication information and the Length Indicator information.

37. (New) The method as claimed in claim 36, wherein the step of mapping is based on logical mapping.

38. (New) The method as claimed in claim 37, wherein the step of mapping includes bit stuffing.